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REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 31, 2003 has been read and carefully considered and the present amendment submitted in order to make certain amendments to the claims in order to accept the claims that have been allowed or which have been indicated as allowable. A prior Amendment After Final Rejection was filed in the present application but was refused entry by the Examiner, however, in that Advisory Action dated June 3, 2004, it was indicated that claims 31 and 32 would be allowed if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowed claims. An extension of time and Notice of Appeal is also being filed today in this application under separate cover by first class mail.

In the aforesaid Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 25 were allowed. Claims 7, 12, 19, 21, 23 and 31-33 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected claims but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 6, 8-11, 13-16, 18 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nowell, U.S. Patent 4,646,371. Claims 26-28 were rejected under that same section as being anticipated by Cartwright, U.S. Patent 5,890,244. Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cartwright in view of Dees, U.S. Patent 5,890,244. Finally, claims 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cartwright in view of Lupo, U.S. Patent 4,878,259.

Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten the claims 31-33 that were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form and therefore it is submitted that such claims 31-33 are now in allowable form. As stated, claims 31 and 32 were already indicated as allowable in the Advisory Action of June 3, 2004 and claim 33 has been amended to correct the language to be rewritten in independent form as required by the Examiner. The corresponding claims from which claims 31-33 depended, that is claims 6, 11 and 18 have therefore been cancelled.

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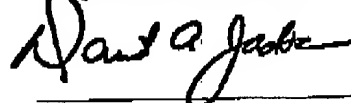
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With that amendment, claims 7-10 have all been made dependent upon claim 31; claims 12-16 have been made dependent upon claim 32 and claims 19, 21, 23, and 24 have been made dependent upon claim 33. Since claims 1-5 and 25 were allowed, therefore, claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-16, 19, 21, 23, 24 and 25 also are now in allowable form. Claims 26, 28, 29 and 30 have been canceled and which are the only remaining claims in the application that were either allowed or were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As such it is submitted that all of the claims are patentably distinct over the cited references and an allowance of the present application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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